

Mixed Media

The term 'mixed media' describes artwork that uses more than one medium, such as paper, fabric, photographs and 3-D objects, like buttons. Collage is a type of mixed media art.



mixed media collages

Collage

Collage is art in which pieces of paper, photographs, fabric and other objects are arranged and stuck down onto a supporting surface or background. Collages can be abstract or pictorial.



Mountains by Fanny Dreyer, 2019

The German artist, Kurt Schwitters, lived from 1887–1948 and is famous for his mixed media collages called 'Merz pictures'. Artists who create mixed media collages use different joining methods, including gluing, stitching and tying.



Merz Picture with Porcelain Fragments by Kurt Schwitters, 1945–1947

Paper collage

Paper collages are made by gluing different types of paper to a background. The paper used to make a collage can be torn, folded, crumpled or layered to create interesting textural effects. Henri Matisse is well known for his collage art.



Sorrow of the King by Henri Matisse, 1952

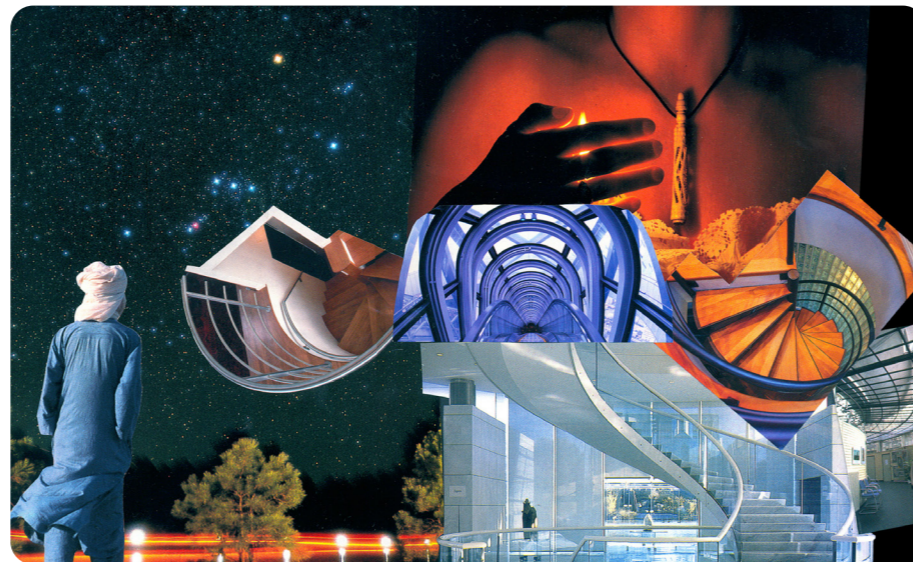
Fabric collage

Scraps of fabric, or fabric crumb, can be used to make abstract fabric collages. The fabric crumb is glued onto a piece of backing fabric, using techniques, such as layering to add interest. Fabric collages can be embellished with buttons, sequins or embroidery stitches.



Photo collages and surrealism

A photo collage consists of photographs that have been placed together to create a single picture. Some artists create surreal photo collages. Surreal artwork is bizarre and unreal, more like a dream than reality. A surreal photo collage can combine parts from several photographs to create an imaginary image.



surreal photo collage

Papermaking and papercraft

Papermaking is the manufacture of paper. Almost all paper today is made using industrial machinery. However, making handmade paper is a specialised and traditional craft.



industrial papermaking



traditional papermaking

Paper is a flexible medium used in many different types of craftwork, including paper and mixed media collages. There are many different paper craft techniques, such as quilling, origami, marbling and decoupage.



quilling



decoupage

Glossary

abstract	Art that uses shape, line, colour and texture to express emotions or ideas rather than real things.
embellish	To decorate something by adding detail.
medium	The materials an artwork is made from.
pictorial	Art that takes on the form of a recognisable picture.